

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 8, 1997

LB 388, 389

have...if I have a minute, you can finish what you got cut off saying.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Crosby. I would be happy...I do not have an amendment to this draft at this point in time. If we adopt the amendment this morning, I would be most happy to come in on Select File on 388 and recommend that 150 be in...this be reduced to 150 and then we add 200 thousand to the Legislative Council budget for this purpose in, what is it, 389? Is that the mainline bill? Yeah. I wouldn't have any problem with doing that at all. I just want to keep our legislative studies...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...as good as they possibly can be. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the body, I want to make it clear that the action of the Appropriations Committee was not to question the need for studying public deregulation, especially in light of the uniqueness of Nebraska with public power, and that may legitimize some of the reason to have an outside study. But I still think that there are some questions that we need to look at and one of those is the precedent for spending this sum of money, and it's a fairly significant sum of money, on a study, and especially in light of what we've just gone through in terms of telecommunications deregulation. And I really do think it's an important question to figure out why we can't do this in-house as we did telecommunications. And, actually, I may agree more with Senator Wehrbein's approach that to segment out at least the policy aspect of it and do that in-house because I think that we should be controlling that piece of it in the most stringent manner. But, ultimately, the question is how is this different from anything else that we have to undergo a fairly intensive study about and do we want to set a precedent of using our funds and...at such a level for studies? But I would like to direct a couple of questions to